

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PAGE WHITE & FARRER
Attn. Driver, Virginia R.
54 Doughty Street
London WC1N 2LS
UNITED KINGDOM

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)	30 SEP 2004
Applicant's or agent's file reference 302326WO/VRD/AEC		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/14990		International filing date (day/month/year)	
Applicant ESSELTE B.V.B.A.			

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Fascimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

DEADLINES ENTERED

1. 30/11/04
2. ____/____/____
3. ____/____/____

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the International application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within **20 months** from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel: (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Astrid Lambertz
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NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 302326WO/VRD/AEC	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/14990	International filing date (day/month/year) 23/12/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 24/12/2002
Applicant ESSELTE B.V.B.A.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 9 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1.0

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/14990

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

1-9, 21-29, 34-43, 48-65, 75-83, 84-87

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-9; 75-83

A cassette for a recording medium, comprising an upper casing and a lower casing, wherein the upper and lower casings and a spool each have a substantially central through-hole which are substantially aligned as between the parts

2. claims: 10-20

A cassette for a recording medium comprising first and second flanges at an exit region, each flange comprising one or more grooves adapted to receive an edge of a recording medium

3. claims: 21-29

A printing device having a recording medium receiving bay, wherein the receiving bay comprises a groove and the groove comprises a detent into which a projection of a rib of a recording medium cassette can be latched

4. claims: 30-33

A printing device having a recording medium receiving bay and the receiving bay comprising first and second supports mounted in a moveably resiliently manner

5. claims: 34-43

A printing device comprising one of a ramp means and a resiliently moveable portion capable of interacting with the other of a ramp means and a resiliently moveable portion of a cassette

6. claims: 44-47

A cassette comprising a hollow spool and a sprocket disposed at least partly inside at least a part of the spool, wherein a surface of the sprocket in contact with an interior surface of the spool comprises a plurality of protrusions

7. claims: 48-65

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

A printer comprising a cassette receiving bay comprising a sprung portion and which is arranged to, following insertion of a cassette, close under a spring force, thereby locking an inserted cassette in the receiving bay

8. claims: 66-74

A recording medium cassette comprising a leaf spring oriented to act on the recording medium

9. claims: 84-87

A printer comprising detection means for detecting that an inserted cassette is to be removed from the printer, wherein a driving means is arranged to drive in the reverse direction for rewinding a length of recording medium of an inserted cassette

10. claims: 88-92

A printer that is arranged to, when a length of recording medium unwound by a driving means reaches the printing zone, rotate the platen to drive the length of recording medium through the printing zone

11. claims: 93-95

A printer comprising a roller drive means disposed in a region in which recording medium exits a cassette inserted in the cassette receiving bay and comprising a lever means operable to move the roller drive means

12. claims: 96-105

An ink ribbon cassette comprising a spring disposed to act axially on the sprocket for maintaining tension of the ink ribbon between the supply and take-up spools

13. claims: 106-109

An ink ribbon cassette comprising a driveable sprocket, wherein the end of the sprocket that is not disposed inside a supply spool comprises an inner cylinder and an outer cylinder

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/14990

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The present invention relates to a cassette for a recording medium, comprising an upper casing and a lower casing (60), a spool (62) for holding a roll of recording medium (2) and disposed between the upper and lower casings, and a side casing (66) for enclosing the spool and joining the upper and lower casings, wherein the side casing is fitted to at least one of the upper and lower casings by means of press-fit or snap-fit connections. Various embodiments of cassettes and printers are also disclosed.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/14990

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 B41J15/04 B41J32/00 B41J35/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 B41J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 02/32680 A (BROTHER IND LTD ;NONOMURA YOSHIHITO (JP)) 25 April 2002 (2002-04-25)	1,6
A	& EP 1 336 507 A (BROTHER IND LTD) 20 August 2003 (2003-08-20) abstract paragraph '0037!; figure 2	75
X	EP 0 322 918 A (BROTHER IND LTD) 5 July 1989 (1989-07-05) cited in the application abstract; figures 13,16	1,6
X	US 6 367 995 B1 (HASHIMOTO AKIRA ET AL) 9 April 2002 (2002-04-09)	34, 38-43, 48,49
A	column 7, line 13 – line 45; figures 2,9,10	35,58,62
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 SEP 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA
 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Wehr, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/14990

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/186994 A1 (ITO SHINGO) 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12) abstract; figure 2 -----	1,3,4
A	US 5 618 118 A (MATSUMOTO YOSHIKANE ET AL) 8 April 1997 (1997-04-08) column 5, line 52 - column 6, paragraph 1; figure 4 -----	21
A	US 6 435 744 B1 (COCKERILL SAM ET AL) 20 August 2002 (2002-08-20) column 7, line 38 - line 44; figures 6,9 -----	21
A	US 6 132 120 A (YAMAGUCHI KOSHIRO ET AL) 17 October 2000 (2000-10-17) column 14, line 39 - column 15, paragraph 1 -----	84

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members
International Application No
PCT/EP 03/14990

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WO 0232680	A 25-04-2002	AU 9226001 A AU 9226201 A CN 1469811 T CN 1469812 T EP 1336507 A1 EP 1329327 A1 WO 0232680 A1 WO 0232682 A1 US 2004031875 A1 US 2004056143 A1	29-04-2002 29-04-2002 21-01-2004 21-01-2004 20-08-2003 23-07-2003 25-04-2002 25-04-2002 19-02-2004 25-03-2004
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/14990

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			DE	69814475 D1		12-06-2003
			DE	69814475 T2		20-11-2003
			EP	1080016 A1		07-03-2001
			DE	19832093 A1		25-02-1999
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			FR	2767499 A1		26-02-1999
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			DE	69619571 D1		11-04-2002
			DE	69619571 T2		26-09-2002
			EP	0734872 A2		02-10-1996
			US	6190069 B1		20-02-2001
			US	6196740 B1		06-03-2001
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